GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2360
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Earth Summit 2002 has been held recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the issues discussed in the summit;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to accord high priority to provide drinking water sources to villages; and

(d) if so, the details of the programmes for providing drinking water sources to such villages to be implemented under the 10th Five Year Plan, state-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the Earth Summit 2002 are annexed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to cover all the rural habitations in the country with the facility of drinking water by April, 2004 subject to availability of funds. Specific schemes for achieving this objective are planned, sanctioned and implemented by the State Governments under the powers delegated to them.

Annex to reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2360 for 3.12.2002

The UN World Summit on Sustainable Development acted as a 10 year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process and identified major accomplishments and obstacles in implementing Agenda 21.The major issues considered by the WSSD inter-alia include poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, sustainable development in a globalizing world, health and sustainable development, sustainable development of small island developing countries, means of implementation and institutional framework for sustainable development.

The major outcome of the Summit was that it reaffirmed `sustainable development` as a central element of the international agenda and gave a new impetus on global action to fight poverty and protect the environment. The understanding of sustainable development was broadened and strengthened as a result of the Summit, particularly important linkages between poverty, the environment and the use of natural resources were clearly established. As a result of a coordinated approach adopted by the developing countries including India, in addition to reiterating Millennium Development Goals and objectives of various multilateral environment agreements the Summit agreed on:

(i) Increasing the number of people with access to clean water and sanitation facilities by half by the year 2015.

(ii) Reducing the proportion of people without access to cleaner energy by the year 2015.

(iii) Helping the developing countries with necessary resources to increase the share of renewable energy in a gradual manner.

(iv) Evolving an international regime to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources in a transparent manner.

(v) Developed Countries to take lead in shifting away from the present pattern of unsustainable consumption and production.

(vi) Successfully countered the efforts made by various blocks on imposing disguised trade barriers in the nature of eco-labeling, life-cycle analysis criteria, and inclusion of core labour standards of ILO.

The Plan of Implementation and Political Declaration issued after the Summit has highlighted concerns of developing countries and reflect consensus among all countries arrived after the WSSD. The Plan of Implementation calls for immediate international action to tackle these issues. The Government regularly monitors its performance on the benchmark of annual and Five Year Plans which contain all elements of sustainable development. Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up a mechanism for follow up action on various decisions taken in the World Summit.